

NAU Northern & Western Arizona RSVP Program

2012-2013

Arizona

Arizona Legislative Districts 1-5, 24

PROGRAM FAST FACTS

Congressional District(s): 1, 3-9
State Legislative District(s): 1-5, 24
Service Area by County/City: Apache, Coconino, La Paz, Maricopa, Mohave, Navajo, Yavapai, and Yuma Counties
Project Federal Share: \$117,270
Project Local Match: \$ 52,815
Community Volunteers Recruited: 362
Volunteer Hours Served: 62,435
Value of Volunteer Hours: \$1,253,694
*2011 Independent Sector Rate for the Value of a Volunteer Hour in Arizona is \$20.08

Program Activities

RSVP volunteers serve to strengthen communities in a variety of ways: by providing services to homebound seniors, including companionship, meal delivery, and outreach to homebound seniors and disabled adults; radio services for the blind; public education through cultural heritage and environmental programs; and public safety and fire patrols. RSVP recruits and places volunteers with area elementary schools to serve as literacy coaches to identified children who may not be performing at grade level in reading and math. RSVP volunteers also help to alleviate hunger by serving at food distribution sites performing the necessary duties to sustain daily operations of their emergency food programs.

Community Need

RSVP recruits and places volunteers age 55 and older into activities within non-profit and public agencies. The eight county service area has over 750 non-profits and public agencies, each needing to meet their agency mission and program outcomes. However, due to funding constraints and staff limitations, these same agencies depend on volunteers to operate their programs and/or assist in the direct delivery of services.

National Priority Areas:

Capacity Building: 20 volunteers will work with 8 partner agencies to improve their volunteer programs and recruit new volunteers

Education: 225 children will receive mentoring and tutoring in early childhood or K-12 settings

Healthy Futures: 5,250 people will be served through food security & aging in place activities

Veterans & Military Families: 27 veterans and 150 military children will receive services from RSVP volunteers

Program Impact

The RSVP Program is proud of its volunteers' accomplishments in each of the focus areas and particularly in food security and education:

- Food Bank partner agencies responded that because of the 118 RSVP volunteers, 88% of their clients/food recipients reported being better able to address other responsibilities in their lives such as rent, utility, and medication costs due to the low/no cost food assistance they received.
- 19 RSVP volunteers served at 13 schools with 268 children. 67% of children demonstrated improved overall reading participation as a result of the volunteers' positive influence.



Mission

CSI mobilizes generations to strengthen communities through service and volunteerism.

Vision

CSI provides the largest, most diverse and effective pool of volunteers to meet the needs of communities and neighborhoods throughout Arizona.

Other Information

RSVP is excited about the new Capacity Building volunteer opportunities it is developing in conjunction with its partner agencies. Volunteers with experience in both the non-profit and for-profit sectors have new projects in which they can utilize their professional skills to assist partner agencies in improving and expanding their volunteer programs.

In addition to their dedication to the partner agencies they serve, RSVP volunteers participate in National Days of Service events and serve on local advisory councils.



NAU's Senior Corps Volunteers at the 2013 Flagstaff September 11th National Day of Service and Remembrance event



RSVP volunteer assisting with Salvation Army holiday collection in Show Low

Partnerships

RSVP has formal partnerships with over 50 non-profit organizations throughout the eight county service area. Below are some of our excellent partner agencies:

Education:

- Cottonwood Oak Creek School District
- Kingman Area School Retirees Association
- Prescott Unified School District
- Kingman Unified School District
- Flagstaff Unified School District
- Clarkdale Jerome School District

Healthy Futures:

- Central Arizona Senior Association
- Coconino Senior Living Foundation Kingman Area Food Bank
- NACOG (Northern AZ Council of Governments)
- Silver Creek Senior Center
- Winslow Council on Aging
- Yuma Food Bank
- WACOG (Western AZ Council of Governments)
- Rim Country Senior Center
- Flagstaff Family Food Center, Food Bank and Kitchen
- Chino Valley Food Bank

Veterans and Military Families:

- American Legion Post 2
- Operation Military Kids
- Northern Arizona VA Healthcare System

Other Community Partners:

- Catholic Charities
- The Literacy Center
- Show Low Fire and Police Departments
- Cerbat Garden Club
- Prescott Valley Adult Literacy Group
- United Way of Northern Arizona

The RSVP Program seeks support from community partners in the form of both in-kind donations and grants to allow us to support the volunteers in many different ways. Funders include, but are not limited to: United Way of Northern Arizona and its Northeast Chapter, River Cities United Way, the Arizona Department of Transportation, the NACOG Area Agency on Aging, and our main funding source, the Corporation for National and Community Service.

History

The Civic Service Institute (CSI) @ NAU was established in July 2009 with the merging of the Northern Arizona Regional Gerontology Institute (NARGI) and the Institute for Future Workforce Development. Programs under the institute include the Foster Grandparent, Senior Companion and RSVP Programs as well as Youth in Action AmeriCorps and Project G.I.V.E., NAU's student volunteer program. Our goal is to incorporate all streams of National Service as well as promoting service learning and community involvement with NAU students and the general public.